

From: Chad Kidder
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I feel that the DoJ settlement with Microsoft is a bad idea. They have proven that they will not abide by restrictions placed on them (look at prior court cases). There needs to be a non-Microsoft enforcement mechanism in place for whatever is reached. We need to make sure that it has teeth. A company with \$40 billion in the bank will not take small fines seriously.

I find section III.J of the settlement particularly onerous. This leaves loopholes that Microsoft will use to make sure that their APIs are still unknown. To correct this problem, Microsoft should be required to document all APIs that interact with any external software in a timely manner prior to Microsoft's release of them. This should go further to the office market where Microsoft has effectively used obfuscated file formats to stop compatibility with 3rd party software.

We have let Microsoft crush the competition and we are now paying the price. If you want to use most computer programs, there is only a windows version. If you want to write some type of document, most people will only accept an office document. The current remedies do nothing to help stem this tide. As the government you are obliged to help right this. What we currently have negotiated does not.

--Chad Kidder
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